

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 29 No. 8

August 15, 1961

Whole No. 347

## Beadles Abroad

By Denis R. Rogers



Norwegian reprint of early issue of Beadle's Dime Novel. Published by Messrs. N. W. Damm & Son, Christiania (Oslo) Norway, in the 1870's. (Illustration courtesy Major Arne Damm.)

## Beadles Abroad

By Denis R. Rogers

Perhaps I should make it clear right away that this brief article is strictly limited in its scope, namely to foreign language editions of tales, which appeared first in Beadle's early publications. Moreover, since the facts were gleaned as a by-product, so to speak, of research for a quite different project, no claim can be made to exhaustive coverage of the subject.

In fact it seems likely that Beadle's little booklets attracted the attention of publishers in more than the four countries mentioned. Unfortunately many foreign countries have not enjoyed stable government over the last hundred years and many others have not maintained the bibliographical records necessary to preserve their literary heritage. Probably, therefore, some foreign language reprints of Beadle's Dime Novels never will be brought to light.

In this article I have adopted the abbreviations used in "The House of Beadle & Adams," namely AT for American Tales, DN for Beadle's Dime Novels and LON for Beadle's American Library.

### Part I — Norway

Between the years 1872 and 1887 Messrs. N. W. Damm & Son of Christiania (the old name for Oslo), who

celebrated their centenary in 1943, published no less than 14 translations from Beadle's publications.

The booklets were published under a general series title: *Se Amerikanske Fortaellinger*; and the first twelve issues were identical in external format with the American originals, except that the cover illustrations were in colors on yellow paper. The reproduction on the front of this issue of "The Roundup" illustrates the similarity clearly.

Numbers 1 to 8 were first issued between 1872 and 1875, with a colored wrapper, but no frontispiece. They sold at either 18 or 24 skilling and were set in gothic type (fraktur).

During 1877 and 1878 a second edition of each number was issued, still set in gothic type, but with a black and white frontispiece reproducing the picture on the colored wrapper. Between 1877 and 1880 numbers 9 to 12 were added to the series, also with frontispiece in addition to the colored wrapper and also set in gothic type. The Norwegian currency system was changed from skilling to krone and øre gradually from 1873 to 1875 and so the editions referred to in this paragraph sold at either 60 or 80 øre each.

Up to this point the publication

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pattern is clear, but now an element of mystery creeps into the picture. The *Norsk Bogfortegnelse* for 1883-1890 records second editions (2 Opl) set in gothic type of numbers 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12, all without specifying the year of publication. A second edition of number 10 is also listed, set in roman type (antikva) and numbers 13 and 14 were added to the series, both set in roman type and both published in 1887. At the same time numbers 1 to 5 have been replaced by translations of Fenimore Cooper's *Leatherstocking Tales*, published in 1884 and set in gothic type. Prices ranged from 40 to 80 øre each.

The mystery centers around numbers 6 and 8, since the *Norsk Bogfortegnelse* for 1873-1882 records second editions (Andet oplag) published in 1877 and 1878 respectively. If the second editions recorded in the *Norsk Bogfortegnelse* for 1883-1890 had been set in roman type, it would have been a clear case of misprint, namely 2 Opl in error for 3 Opl. As it is that may still be the correct explanation or, alternatively, the second editions of numbers 6 and 8 were re-recorded by mistake. The absence of a second edition of No. 7 in the *Norsk Bogfortegnelse* for 1883-1890 supports the latter theory.

Another mystery is why the second edition of number 10 should have been set in roman type, while those of numbers 9, 11 and 12 remained in gothic type. The only plausible explanation is that number 10 was re-printed after the others, at the time when roman type was being substituted generally for gothic type by Norwegian publishers.

Unfortunately very few copies of the booklets have survived and then mostly first editions. The first editions of numbers 1 to 6 were dated on the title page. From 1875 onwards the dating of title pages was discontinued except for that of number 13.

The copy of No. 14 in Messrs. N. W. Damm's archives has no frontispiece and the wrapper, although still paper, is now more substantial, giving the whole work the appearance of

a paperback book. Until further copies of all the issues come to light I cannot say just when the change over from dime novel booklet format was introduced. However I would hazard a guess that only numbers 13 and 14, and, perhaps, the roman type edition of number 10 were issued in paperback book format.

Before listing the 14 issues I should like to acknowledge my indebtedness to Major Arne Damm, who most generously lent me his firm's precious archive copies for study. I am also much obliged to Mr. Erling Grønland of the Norwegian Department at the Oslo Universitetsbiblioteket for his interest and assistance.

Needless to say these Norwegian Dime Novels are now rarities and it may well be that no copies survive outside the publisher's archives and the Universitetsbiblioteket (Norway's equivalent of your Library of Congress). In fact, no copy of No. 11 has been located.

#### Se Amerikanske Fortaellinger

- No. 1. *Nybyggerens Hytte. Et Traek af Graenslivet i Amerika* af E. S. Ellis. 1872—101pp. (1877)—112 pp.
- No. 2. *Hutterens Krydstogt, eller Styrmandens Strategi* af Roger Starbuck. 1872—73pp. (1877)—80pp.
- No. 3. *Boret isenk, eller Bessie, Slaveierens Datter* af Roger Starbuck. 1873—86pp. (1877)—96pp.
- No. 4. *Sørøveren paa Mississippi* af Mayne Reid. 1874—133pp. (1877) 133pp.
- No. 5. *Seth Jones, eller Fangerne ved Graendsen* af Edward S. Ellis. 1874—135pp. (1877)—135pp.
- No. 6. *Indianeren Rødbaelte, eller Dødssporet* af Wm. Mason Turner. 1874—103pp. (1877)—103pp. ?(1884)—Pagination not known.
- No. 7. *Haeverne fra Texas* af Edward A. Willett. 1875—106pp. (1878)—106pp.
- No. 8. *Overbord. En Fortaelling fra Kysten af Japan* af Roger Starbuck (1875)—111pp. (1878)—111 pp. ?(1884)—Pag. not known.
- No. 9. *Shawnee—Spionen eller Døds-*



sporet af J. Stanley Henderson. (1877)—109pp. ?(1884)—Pagination not known.

No. 10. Bill Biddon eller Vildtfangeren af Edward S. Ellis. (1877)—142pp. ?(1887)—Pagination not known.

No. 11. Nathan Todd eller Siouxfangens Skjaebne af Edward S. Ellis. (1879)—123pp. ?(1884)—Pagination not known.

No. 12. Det tabte Spor. Fortaelling fra det vestlige Amerika af Edward S. Ellis. (1880)—96pp. ?(1884)—Pagination not known.

No. 13. Den forfulgte, eller De fra graensen forviste af Edward A. Willet. 1887—109pp.

No. 14. Alicia Newcombe. En Fortaelling fra Øvre Missouri. Anonymous. (1887)—147pp.

It has proved possible to relate these tales to their Beadle originals, with the exception of No. 2. Briefly the particulars of the 13 items identified beyond doubt are:

No. 1. The Hunter's Cabin. An Episode of the Early Settlements in Ohio by E. S. Ellis. (20-LON, 1 October 1862).

No. 3. Scuttled! or, Bessie, The Slave's Daughter. A Story of a Cruise off the African Coast by Roger Starbuck. (40-AT, 28 Aug. 1866; the American Tales were issued by a publisher's agent, but there is little doubt that the real publisher was Beadle & Co.)

No. 4. The Planter Pirate. A Souvenir of Mississippi by Capt. Mayne Reid. (152-DN, 9 June 1868).

No. 5. Seth Jones; or, The Captives of the Frontier by Edward S. Ellis. (1-Lon, 15 January 1861).

No. 6. Red Belt the Tuscarora; or, The Death Trail by Dr. Wm. Mason Turner. (216-DN, 8 November 1870)

No. 7. The Fire Eater; or, The Texan's Revenge by Edward Willet. (251-DN, 12 March 1872).

No. 8. Overboard; or, The Double Cruise by Roger Starbuck. (99-DN, 12 June 1866).

No. 9. The Shawnee Scout; or, The Death Trail by J. Stanley Hen-

derson. (197-DN, 15 February 1870).

No. 10. Bill Biddon, Trapper; or, Life in the North-West by Edward S. Ellis. (7-Lon, 2 September 1861).

No. 11. Nathan Todd; or, The Fate of the Sioux' Captive, by Edward S. Ellis. (9-Lon, 1 November 1861).

No. 12. The Lost Trail. A Legend of the Far West by Edward S. Ellis. (40-Lon, 1 December 1864).

No. 13. The Hunted Life; or, The Outcasts of the Border by Edward Willet. (125-DN, 4 June 1867).

No. 14. Alicia Newcombe; or, The Land Claim. A Tale of the Upper Missouri by Mrs. Frances F. Barritt. (19-Lon, 1 September 1862).

A literal translation of the Norwegian title of No. 2: "The Cutter's Cruise; or, The Mate's Strategy"; appears to limit the Beadle original to a choice between:

The Lost Ship; or, The Cruise for a Shadow by Roger Starbuck. (108-DN, 19 October 1866), and

Port at Last; or, A Cruise for Honor by Roger Starbuck. (116-DN, 29 January 1867).

The translation of numbers 1 to 6 into Norwegian was made by Mr. N. W. Damm; unfortunately there is no record of the translator of numbers 7 to 14.

## Part II — France

The Norwegian editions described in Part I of this article were not the first foreign language reprints of Beadle's little yellowbacks. The Paris editor and publisher, E. Dentu, reprinted ten titles in French during 1865 and 1866, more probably translating from Beadle's American Library than from Beadle's Dime Novels.

The Dentu editions measure 4-1/0 x 7 inches, contain over 300 pages, plus sixteen attractive plates illustrating the story, and are enclosed in stiff orange wrappers. They sold at 2 francs each. These are the particulars:

a). La Fille du Grand Chef par Ann S. Stephens. (1865—320pp).

b). Fleche D'or par M. V. Victor.

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I want a good, clean copy of Handsome Harry No. 1; Beadle's Pocket Library 44 and 47, either singly or bound in a volume, and Merriwell stories in Top Notch, Tip Top Semi-Monthly, Wide Awake Magazine, Sport Story Magazine and Fame & Fortune Magazine. Will pay good price or give an excellent trade.



(1865—Pagination not known).

- c). *L'Ange des Frontieres* par Edward S. Ellis. (1865—317pp).
- d). *L'Espion Indien* par Edward S. Ellis. 1865—317pp).
- e). *L'Auberge de l'Ours Noir* par M. V. Victor. (1865—Pagination not known)
- f). *La Captive des Mohawks* par Edward S. Ellis. (1865—320pp).
- g). *L'Enfant d'Adoption* par Ann S. Stephens. (1865—319pp).
- h). *La Famille du Batelier* par M. V. Victor. (1865—317pp).
- i). *Les Vierges de la Foret* par N. W. Busteed. 1866—318pp).
- J). *Le Ranch de la Valée* par Ann S. Stephens. (1866—319pp).

In both the *Catalogue Général* of the *Bibliothèque Nationale* and the *Catalogue Général* of *La Librairie Française* items (g) and (h) are recorded as published by Hachette et Cie and item h) as written by Edward S. Ellis! I have not investigated item g), but have ascertained that the copy of "La Famille du Batelier" in the *Bibliothèque Nationale* was published by Dentu and that Edward S. Ellis is given as author on the front wrapper and M. V. Victor as author on the title page. *Le Conservateur en Chef* at the *Bibliothèque Nationale* believes that the catalogue entries must have been made from the cover of the Dentu edition, without reference to the title page. That strikes me as logical and suggests that, in fact, Hachette never did publish editions of items (g) and (h); perhaps they were selling agents for Dentu.

Item (i) was advertised as "Le Roi Barnabé ou Les Vierges de la Foret" but the words: "Le Roi Barnabé" were not included in the title on publication. The translator of the Dentu editions is not recorded.

There has been no difficulty in relating these tales to their Beadle originals; the details are:

- a). *Malaeska, the Indian Wife of the White Hunter* by Ann S. Stephens. (4-Lon, 1 June 1861).
- b). *The Gold Hunters. A Picture of Western Character and Pike's Peak Life* by Metta V. Victor.

(26-Lon, 1 April 1863).

- c). *The Frontier Angel. A Romance of Kentucky Rangers' Life* by Edward S. Ellis. (3-Lon, 1 May 1861).
- d). *Monowano, the Shawnee Spy* by Edward S. Ellis. (13-Lon, 1 Mar. 1862).
- e). *The Backwoods' Bride. A Romance of Squatter Life* by Metta V. Victor. (8-Lon, 1 October 1861).
- f). *Seth Jones; or, The Captives of the Frontier* by Edward S. Ellis. (1-Lon, 15 February 1861).
- g). *Myra, the Child of Adoption. A Romance of Real Life* by Ann S. Stephens. (10-Lon, 2, December 1861).
- h). *Alice Wilde, the Raftsmen's Daughter. A Forest Romance* by Metta V. Victor. (2-Lon, 1 April 1861).
- i). *King Barnaby; or, The Maidens of the Forest. A Romance of the Mickmacks* by N. William Busteed. (15-Lon, 1 May 1862).
- j). *Sybil Chase; or, The Valley Ranch. A Tale of California Life* by Ann S. Stephens. (12-Lon, 1 February 1862).

During 1866 another Paris publisher, A. Faure, issued French editions of two more Beadle stories, the translations having been made by Camille de Cendrey. Unfortunately I have not yet seen copies of these two editions and so can do no more than set out the titles:

- k). *Bill Biddon, le trappeur du Kansas* par Edward S. Ellis. (235pp, 3 francs).
- l). *Nathan Todd, ou le Prisonnier des Sioux* par Edward S. Ellis. (240 pp, 1 franc).

The *Bibliothèque Nationale* informs me that the 1866 catalogue of Achille Faure announces both titles as "sous presse pour paraître prochainement a 1 Fr."

From this I deduce that the 3 franc price for "Bill Biddon," given in Lorenz (*Catalogue General de la Librairie Française*, Tom 5, A-H, 1866-1875, Page 259) was a misprint and that, in fact, the book never sold for more than 1 franc.



It is scarcely necessary to add that the Beadle originals were:

- k). Bill Biddon, Trapper; or, Life in the North-West by E. S. Ellis. (7-Lon, 2 September 1861).
- l). Nathan Todd; or, The Fate of the Sioux' Captive by Edward S. Ellis. (9-Lon, 1 November 1861).

In 1900 all the above items, except (h), are recorded as having been reprinted by the firm of Méricant at 40 centimes each (In-32) (Lorenz, Tom. 18, A-H, Page 305), with C. de Cendrey (pseudonym of Charles Bernard Derosne, 1825-1904) as author! The titles are unchanged, except for those of items (k) and (l), which now simply read:

- k). Le Trappeur du Kansas.
- l). Le Prisonnier des Sioux.

Included in the record are two titles, not found hitherto, which are presumably also reprints of Beadle novels, although it has not proved possible to relate them to particular tales. The details are:

- m). Les Colons du Missouri. (literally: The Colonists of Missouri)
- n). Le Roi des nuages. (literally: The King of the Clouds).

Here again, however, there is some doubt as to the accuracy of the Lorenz entries, since the Bibliothèque Nationale has reported the publisher as Didier et Méricant of Paris, and the selling price as 20 centimes (In-16). The Bibliothèque Nationale lists series numbers (in "la nouvelle collection illustrée") for eight titles as follows

- a). Le Fille du grand chef: 110 et 116.
- b). Fleche d'or: 129 et 130.
- c). L'ange des frontieres: 122 et 125.
- d). L'Espion indien 139 et 140
- e). L'auberge de l'ours noir: 142 et 143.
- f). La Captive des Mohawks: 160 et 161.
- k). Le Trappeur du Kansas: 75.
- l). Le Prisonnier des Sioux: 94 et 98.

This indicates that these reprints

were usually published in two parts. At 20 centimes per part that would make up the 40 centimes each shown in Lorenz and, probably, Méricant was merely an abbreviation for Didier et Méricant. The Bibliothèque Nationale possesses copies of "L'ange des frontieres" (126pp), "La Captives des Mohawks" (120pp) and "Fleche d'or" (125pp), but has not mentioned Didier et Méricant editions of items g, i, j, m and n.

La Maison Dentu was bought by Librairie Arthème Fayard in 1896. I have not ascertained anything about the history of Achille Faure or about that of Didier et Méricant.

All the booklets described above are very rare. In some cases the only known surviving copies are in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris and in other cases no copies at all have been located. I am grateful to Monsieur P. Josseland and to Madame Y. de La Fontinelle of their Département Des Imprimés for their assistance.

## NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.

Edward Ingraham is hot on the trail for Liberty Boys and Comrades, so I wish him lots of Luck in getting them. Both are very scarce. Says no doubt he is some relation to Col. Prentiss Ingraham as they all came from up in Nova Scotia, as I wrote and asked him if he was any relation.

Bob Traetschel's new address is 1633 Laughlin Ave., Ext., Pittsburgh 10, Pa., a new job and a new address, that's swell pard. Hope it's not too hard work you have to do, Bob.

"Ralph Gardner presents rare Horatio Alger books to John P. Massey, 5, of 403 E. 87th St., who accepted them yesterday in behalf of the Childrens Aid Society at the Rhinelander Childrens center, 350 E. 188th St., New York City."

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 Beadle's (Banner) Weekly. No. 313 to 758. Loose. Fine. \$275.00.  
 Fireside Visitor. (Vickery) April 1903-Dec. 1904 (21 nos.) Bd. \$2.50.  
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